

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /148 W

-----093378 070941Z /11/21

R 040758Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LENINGRAD 1335

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA THREE, SECOND SUBPARA)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CGEN, ECON, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT TO MURMANSK: STATUS OF NORTHERN BASIN
FISHING

1. SUMMARY: CONSUL GENERAL WAS WELL RECEIVED ON HIS FIRST
OFFICIAL TRIP TO MURMANSK (APRIL 24-29) WHICH WAS HIGH-
LIGHTED BY DISCUSSION OF DIFFICULTIES FACED IN FISH
INDUSTRY, VISIT TO LARGE PHOSPHATE CONCENTRATE PLANT AT
APATITY, THREE HOURS BY TRAIN FROM MURMANSK (SEPTTEL), AND
LAYING OF FLOWERS ON WW II GRAVES OF AMERICAN SAILORS.
END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST SECRETARY CITY PARTY COMMITTEE V. N. PASHIN,
SECONDED BY MAYOR V. F. ROMANENKO, CLAIMED THAT MURMANSK'S
POPULATION HAS STABILIZED AT AROUND 383,000 AND TEN-YEAR
PLAN IS BASED ON NON-GROWTH PROJECTION. 300 RUBLE AVERAGE
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INCOME (LENINGRAD'S IS 154 RUBLES), LENGTHY PAID VACATIONS
AND OBVIOUSLY COMMENDABLE, BUT STILL QUITE INADEQUATE,
EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EVERY FAMILY WITH SEPARATE HOUSING
(AVERAGE NOW IS 10 SQ. METERS PER PERSON) HAS ENABLED
MURMANSK TO ATTRACT THE WORKERS IT NEEDS. NO MEAT WAS
SEEN IN STORES BUT PLENTY OF FISH AND LONG LINES FOR
CHICKENS.

3. FISHING INDUSTRY. FOLLOWING WERE AMONG MORE INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF NORTHERN BASIN FISHING FLEET (SEVRYBA), RESPONSIBLE FOR MURMANSK, ARCHAN-GEL'SK AND KARELIAN WATERS.

-- SEVRYBA RANKS THIRD AFTER PACIFIC AND WESTERN (BAL TIC) FISHING FLEETS IN CATCH, EMPLOYING 50,000 PERSONS.

-- WHOLE FISHING INDUSTRY IS PASSING THROUGH DIFFICULT PERIOD WHILE IT WORKS OUT NEW QUOTA SYSTEMS IN LIGHT OF 200 NAUTICAL MILE ZONES. TOTAL USSR CATCH IN 1977 WAS 700,000 TONS BELOW 1976.

-- WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY HALF OF SEVRYBA'S CATCH CAME FROM FOREIGN WATERS, TODAY SEVENTY PERCENT IS FROM SOVIET WATERS. IT HAS QUOTA AGREEMENTS WITH CANADA AND U.S.

-- 200 VESSEL TRAWLER FLEET (POLISH, SWEDISH, ENGLISH) IS BEING MODERNIZED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF LARGER, SOVIET-BUILT TRAWLERS COSTING 15 MILLION RUBLES AND ABOVE. THE GOAL OF THESE VESSELS, EQUIPPED WITH LATEST EQUIPMENT, IS TO SEEK OUT NEW SOURCES OF FISH IN DEEP OCEAN AREAS. (CONFLICT WITH UK WAS CITED OVER RICH DEEP OCEAN FISHING AREA FOUND ABOVE THE HATTAN (PHON) PLATEAU).

-- SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN UP FISHING OFF LATIN AMERICA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NIAMEY REMAINS MAIN FREE FISHING ZONE OFF AFRICA, BUT SOVIETS HAVE WORKED OUT AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES (E.G., SIERRA LEONE) WHEREBY THREE DAYS OF MONTH THEY CATCH FISH FOR COUNTRY WHOSE WATERS THEY ARE USING.

-- SOVIET PACIFIC AREA FISHERMEN BENEFIT FROM EXCLUSION OF JAPANESE FISHERMEN FROM USSR 200-MILE ZONE AND MAY ACQUIRE VESSELS AND PERSONNEL FROM OTHER FLEETS WHERE CATCH DECLINED.

-- SOVIET OFFICIALS COMPLAINED THAT 200-MILE LIMIT OFF RICH FISHING AREA LIKE URUGUAY, WHICH HAS LIMITED FISHING CAPABILITY, MEANS THAT MANY FISH WHICH COULD OTHERWISE BE CAUGHT, WITHOUT DEPLETING STOCKS, WILL SIMPLY DIE FROM AGE, DEPRIVING WORLD OF NEEDED PROTEIN.

-- FISH INDUSTRY IS CAUGHT IN SQUEEZE BETWEEN REDUCED FISH CATCH AND PRICES WHICH HAVE BEEN FROZEN FOR YEARS BY USSR PRICE COMMITTEE (COD REMAINS AT 56 KOPECKS KILO WHEN IT IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN MEAT IN NORWAY). AS A RESULT, SEVRYBA IS SHIFTING FOCUS FROM FROZEN TO SALTED AND SMOKED FISH, PARTICULARLY SMALL FISH WHICH ARE MORE

PROFITABLE, HAVING LESS WASTE ON THEM. (ONE CONGEN
SOVIET EMPLOYEE COMPLAINED RECENTLY THAT GOOD FRESH FISH
IS NOT TO BE FOUND. NEW, UNHEARD OF FISH (E.G., MOIVA)
ARE BEING OFFERED AND SHELVES ARE LOADED WITH UNWANTED
CANNED FISH.)

-- REDUCED CATCH-HAS ALSO MEANT REDUCED WAGES FOR
FISHERMEN. DEPENDING ON CATCH, SHIP'S ENGINEER'S SALARY
CAN RANGE FROM 200 TO 1000 RUBLES, AND SEAMEN FROM 100
TO 760 RUBLES A MONTH. SOME EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PAY
THEM AVERAGE WAGE OF PREVIOUS YEAR.

-- UNLIKE BALTIC AREA, THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW
FISHING COLLECTIVES OR STATE FARMS, AND THOSE THAT EXIST
ARE BEING BADLY HURT BY QUOTAS.
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-- SEVRYBA OFFICIAL NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT
NORWEGIANS HAD BEEN FORCED TO MAKE "CONCESSIONS" (USTUPKY)
IN MATTER OF FISHING IN DISPUTED AREA BETWEEN SECTOR AND

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4256
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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MEDIAN LINE IN BARENTS SEA BECAUSE OF THEIR DESIRE TO FISH IN SOVIET WATERS. UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, BOTH COUNTRIES CAN FISH IN DISPUTED AREA BUT THIRD COUNTRIES MUST OBTAIN APPROVAL OF BOTH PARTIES. ON OTHER HAND, SAME OFFICIAL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER NORWEGIAN DECLARATION OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND SVALBARD; HE CLAIMED US WAS FIRST COUNTRY TO PROTEST THIS DECLARATION AND SAID SOVIET DIPLOMATS WERE NOW TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TAKE UP THIS ISSUE IN BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL CHANNELS.

-- FINALLY, NO SERIOUS CONCERN COULD BE DETECTED REGARDING IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHING OR DRILLING FOR OIL IN ARCTIC WATERS. BUCHANAN

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